

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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EB - MR. HAND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 212110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PRESS REPORTS ON US-UK DISPUTE

REF: LONDON 13442

1. WE ARE OBTAINING TEXT SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S REMARKS
AND WILL TRANSMIT.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE CLEARED FOR USE BY DEPT.
PRESS SPOKESMAN:

QUESTION: IS IT CORRECT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS
REQUESTED THE US AIRLINES TO SUBMIT CONTINGENCY PLANS IN
THE EVENT THERE IS A SUSPENSION OF AIR SERVICES BETWEEN
THE US AND UK?

ANSWER: ON JUNE 22 THE BRITISH REQUESTED RENEGOTIATION OF
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THE US-UK AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT AND ALSO SERVED NOTICE OF

TERMINATION OF THAT AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE IN TWELVE MONTHS. MORE RECENTLY THE BRITISH HAVE TAKEN UNILATERAL ACTION TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS WHICH NATIONAL AIRLINES WANTS TO OPERATE BETWEEN MIAMI AND LONDON AND TWA BETWEEN CHICAGO AND LONDON DURING THE UPCOMING WINTER SEASON BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1. A NUMBER OF US AGENCIES HAVE INITIATED STUDIES

AND REVIEWS BECAUSE OF THIS UNILATERAL BRITISH ACTION, THE DIFFICULT TASK OF RENEGOTIATING A NEW AGREEMENT, AND THE UNCERTAINTIES WHICH WILL ARISE IF A NEW AGREEMENT CANNOT BE CONCLUDED. AMONG THE QUESTIONS BEING REVIEWED IS WHAT OUR AIRLINES MIGHT DO IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATED TO THE POINT OF SERIOUS CURTAILMENT OR SUSPENSION OF DIRECT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE US AND THE UK. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION WILL REACH THIS POINT.

QUESTION: WILL THE UNITED STATES RETALIATE AGAINST THE UNILATERAL BRITISH ACTIONS AGAINST NATIONAL AIRLINES AND TWA?

ANSWER: THE ISSUES WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE BRITISH ACTIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE BRITISH FOR SOME TIME. THE BRITISH INTENTION UNILATERALLY TO RESTRICT US AIRLINE FLIGHTS COMPLICATES THE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TASK OF RENEGOTIATING A NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM. WE VIEW THE BRITISH ACTION WITH REGRET. THE US WANTS TO APPROACH THE TASK OF RENEGOTIATION IN A POSITIVE AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER AND THEREFORE HOPES THAT THE BRITISH WILL RESCIND THE ACTION THEY HAVE TAKEN. KISSINGER

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